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SUBJECT: COURT REJECTS PROCEDURAL CHALLENGE TO JUSTICE
AND PEACE LAW

¶1. (U) On April 24, the Constitutional Court ruled that the Justice and Peace Law is valid on procedural grounds, namely that it was passed in a proper fashion by the Colombian Congress. The seven to two ruling determined that the law as a whole did not affect the fundamental rights of citizens, and was debated and voted correctly. Rulings on ten remaining substantive issues lawsuits -- which criticize one or more particular provisions of the law -- are pending in the near future.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: While the Court could conceivably strike down one or more provisions of the law, this first ruling is a major victory for the GOC and the future of the AUC peace process, as it appears to set the tone for subsequent Court decisions. Rulings on the remaining lawsuits are expected by early June. WOOD